

# Grand Calumet River Area of Concern Community-Driven Green Storm Water Infrastructure Projects



The Grand Calumet River/Indiana Harbor Ship Canal Area of Concern  
Past, Present, and Future  
October 26, 2017

Brenda Scott Henry, Director Green Urbanism & Environmental Affairs/MS4 Coordinator

**The City of Gary's Green Urbanism Division** incorporates sustainable development principles into revitalization initiatives using research and best practices that support our achievement for a vibrant environment and socially engaged community resulting in implementation strategies that invest in...

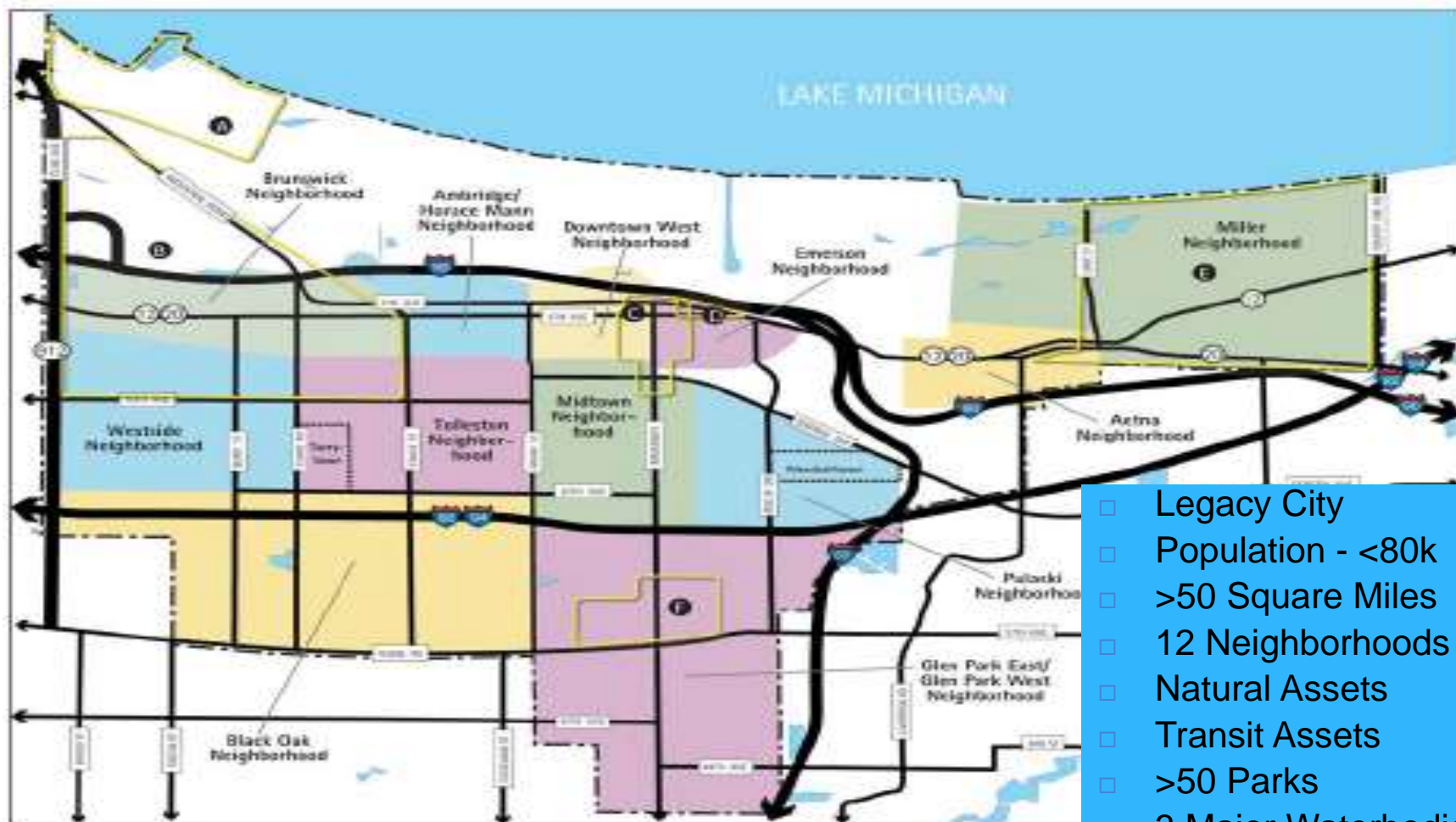


- **PEOPLE – Public Health**
- **PLANET – Natural Environments**
- **PROFITABILITY – Economic Vitality**





# About Gary Indiana



- ❑ Legacy City
- ❑ Population - <80k
- ❑ >50 Square Miles
- ❑ 12 Neighborhoods
- ❑ Natural Assets
- ❑ Transit Assets
- ❑ >50 Parks
- ❑ 3 Major Waterbodies

# Natural Assets: Lake Michigan - Gary Marquette Beach

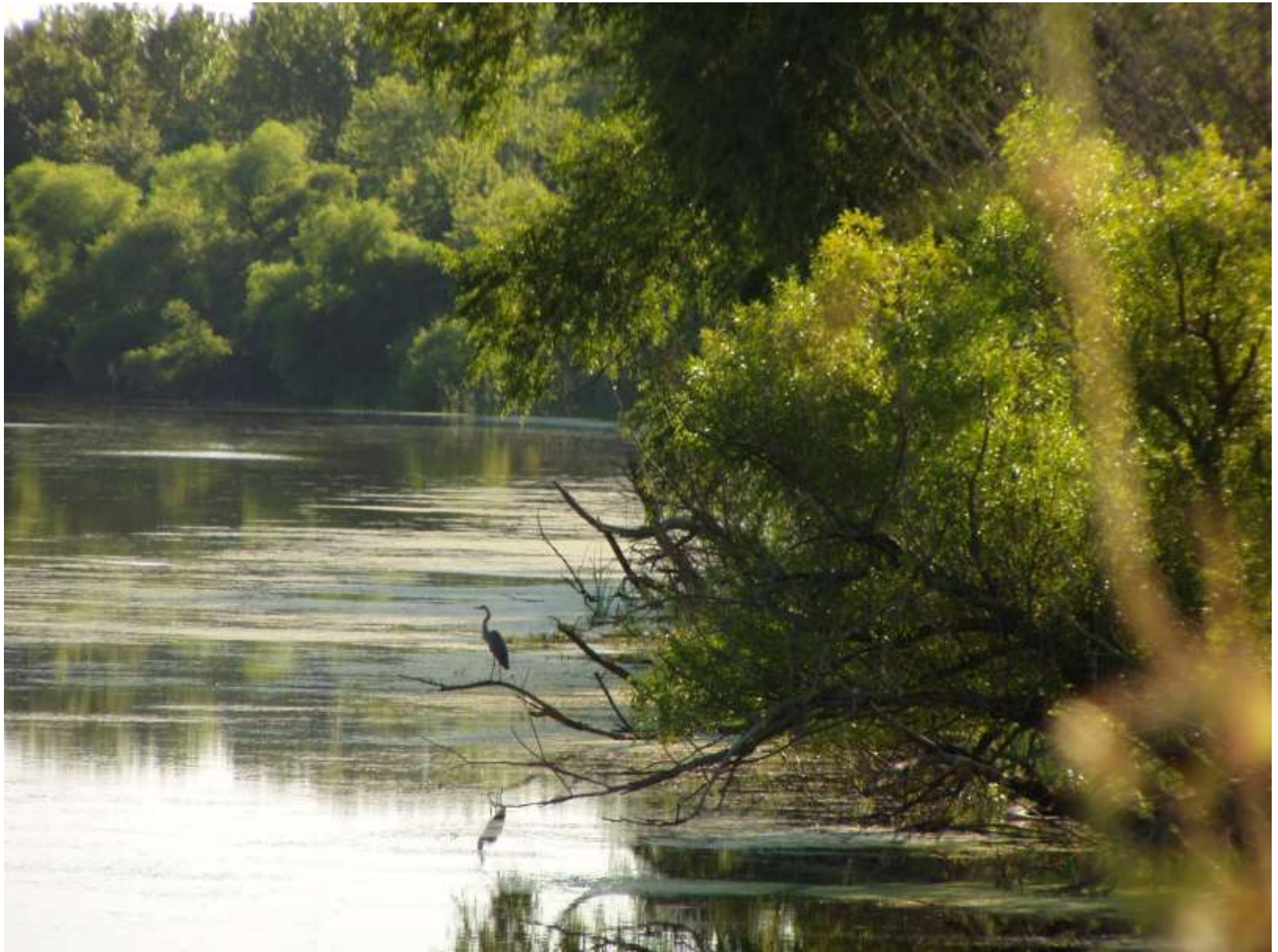


# Natural Asset: Grand Calumet River





## Natural Asset: Little Calumet River – Western Branch





# Community Challenges

- Climate Change
- Combine Sewer Overflow
- Urban Run-off
- Degradation of Water bodies
- Toxic Air Pollution
- Divested Neighborhoods
- Dated Land Use Policies/Land Use Plan

**Challenges...Drivers for Building  
Resilient Communities**

# **TeamGary: Turning CHALLENGES into OPPORTUNITIES**

## **Building Resilient Communities** **Neighborhood by Neighborhood**

- Neighborhood Scale Plans/Watershed planning**
- Civic Engagement/Public Involvement**
- Job Creation: Urban Conservation Corps**
- Green Infrastructure Technical Support**
- Blight Elimination: Environmental and Public Health**





# Building Resilient Communities

**Goal** – Our underlying objective centers on integrated land reuse and sustainable development practices into the City's overall planning and development processes to establish policies, standards and practices that protects air, land and water quality and water quantity.

## **Strategic Value**

- **Natural Landscape:** Grand Calumet River, Little Cal River, Lake Michigan, High valued natural plant and aquatic habitats.
- **Key Issues:** Urban Runoff; Storm Water Pollution; and Blight Elimination; Degradation of waterbodies in Area of Concern; disconnected green spaces
- **Existing Plans:** Comprehensive, Watershed, Neighborhood, Green Infrastructure, Local Food, Local Places, and GreenLink.

# Gary Green Link Master Plan



Gary Green Link Corridor



# From Brownfields to Green Space



**Former Sheraton Hotel**



# Grey to Green -- City Centre Plaza

## Rain Gardens

# Amphitheatre

# Memorial Garden

# Permeable Pavement

## Art

## Walking Paths

## Market Place

## Tree Coverage

## Recreation

## Energy Efficiency



## Native Plants

## Rain Storage

## Event Space

## Permeable pavers

## Fitness

## Parking Improvements

## Seating

## Campus or Plaza

## Connectivity

## Passive

Preliminary Concept  
May 7, 2015

## A Community-Driven Green Infrastructure Project

### GOALS:

- *Manage Storm Water using Sustainable Development Practices*
- *Reduce Urban Storm Water Runoff and Combined Sewer Overflow*
- *Community Engagement & Volunteerism*
- *Blight Elimination and Beautification in Downtown*
- *Promote Environmental and Public Health*



### SOLUTIONS:

- *Green Infrastructure to Increase Rainwater Infiltration onsite*
- *Pollution Prevention Best Management Practices to Improve Water Quality*
- *Storm Water Data Collection to Monitor Effectiveness*
- *Native Plant Landscaping*
- *Inviting Downtown Space for Public Events & Enjoyment*



Sponsored by: US EPA, City of Gary, Great Lakes Shoreline Cities Grant, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Orr-Corby Fund, and City of Gary, Inc.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT  
City of Gary Department of Commerce - Green Urbanism Division - 219-882-3000



# Aetna Stormwater Parks



1200 Oklahoma Street – Gary, IN



# Local Foods, Local Places

# Gary, Indiana



*A Program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
U.S. Department of Transportation, Appalachian Regional Commission, Delta Regional  
Authority, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

# U.S. EPA Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance Grant Award

## **GOAL**

To develop implementation strategies to increase local food programs in Gary

- Improve Public Health
- Improve Economic Health through Job Creation
- Re-purpose vacant property
- Promote Community Building

## **OUTCOME**

Gary LFLP Action & Resource Plan

- Policy Recommendations
- Program Recommendations
- Food Network

## **Local Involvement & Participation**

- Stakeholders
- Partnerships (USDA, Purdue Extension, 30+ local groups/businesses)
- Policy Recommendations
- Program Recommendations
- Local Food Networks
  - Community Garden Network
  - Gary Food Council



What resources are available to all of us  
to support system improvements?





# Desired Outcomes

Revitalized downtowns and neighborhoods and connectivity to natural assets



Aerial View, Gary, IN (credit: Joey BLS Photography)

# Desired Outcomes

Economic opportunities  
for local food system  
stakeholders

- Local Food Production
- Affordable Water Resources
- Green Job Opportunities
- Healthier People
- Revitalized Neighborhoods



F.A.I.T.H. CDC Hoop Houses, Gary, IN (credit: Growing Power)



# Using Civic Engagement is... Key to Building Resilient Communities



Press Conferences



Green Gary Day



Rain Barrel



Community Cleanups



Community Gardening Workshops



HHW Collection Days



# Using Civic Engagement is Key to Building Resilient Communities



Community Meetings



Beach Clean Up



Youth Environmental Days



Environmental Art



Native Landscape Workshops



Municipal Good Housekeeping

**FAITH CDC**  
**In Partnership with Gary Green Urbanism**

**NORTHWEST INDIANA WATER INFRASTRUCTURE SUMMIT**

November 8-9, 2017

November 8th @ :      Network Reception 4-6pm  
                                 Aquatorium at Marquette Park

November 9, 2017      Presentations & Urban Ag Case Study  
9am-4:30p              - State of Water Infrastructure  
NIRPC, Portage        - Public Utilities  
                                 - Water Equality  
                                 - FAITH CDC – Urban Ag Case Study

Funded by Healing Our Waters & American Rivers





Brenda Scott Henry, Director  
Green Urbanism & Environmental Affairs  
Gary Storm Water Management District  
(219) 882-3000

[bhenry@ci.gary.in.us](mailto:bhenry@ci.gary.in.us)

Facebook:

Department of Gary Green Urbanism and  
Stormwater

*Thank You!*

reVitalizeGary